EDWARD DRUMMOND LIBBEY 1854-1925

PORTRAIT BY PHILIP A. DeLAZLO

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EDWARD DRUMMOND LIBBEY was born one hundred years ago, on April 17, 1854.

He was responsible for Toledo's beautiful Museum building; he gave many works of art, funds for maintenance, for art education, and to assure continuous growth of the art collections.

He was a leader in industry, in public education, and in gifts to Toledo charities.

With other citizens he organized in 1901 the Toledo Museum of Art; he was its President until his death in 1925. With his encouragement and support, this Museum was the first in the world to emphasize art appreciation for children. Since his time its classes have expanded their instruction in art and music for Toledo citizens of all ages.

He married Miss Florence Scott of Toledo, whose grandfather early established Toledo University By his will the wing of the Art Museum housing the Peristyle was provided as a memorial to her; she in turn released the funds for its construction during her lifetime, and made a bequest for the support of the Art Museum's program of music education and concerts, as well as for art purchases and Museum operation.

His paintings and other art works he gave to the Art Museum and, by his will, provided funds for further purchases. His is thus a living collection, growing with the community and the opportunities of the times. His bequest has made it possible for Toledo to profit from the great western migration of works of art, at its height between the world wars, now

again under way as world conditions and currencies become more stable.

Mr. Libbey served on the Board of Education and, as its President, began a building program notable for its day. His scholarships for teachers in the public schools still give opportunities for additional study. Other Libbey scholarships enable needy pupils, who might otherwise be deprived of the opportunity, to complete their high school education. As a member of the City Plan Commission, he helped to develop Toledo's first Master Plan, adopted in 1922.

He brought the glass industry to Toledo in 1888. As a glass manufacturer in Massachusetts, he was attracted to Toledo by its ample supply of natural gas and good glass sand. At the age of 34 he organized the Libbey Glass Company, long famous for its fine cut glass. With other associates he manufactured table tumblers, bottles, and the machines to blow them. With them he also developed the almost automatic production of sheet glass. At his death, new owners were attracted to his industries. The companies which he established have, by growth and consolidation with others, become Owens-Illinois Glass Company, Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company, and Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation. Just as he brought some of those who became Toledo's leading families with him when he introduced the industry, the successor companies continue to attract innumerable families to Toledo, to offer profitable and productive employment to thousands. Further expansion, recent inventions, new processes, keep Toledo the world's glass center.

Commemorating the centennial of Mr. Libbey's birth, the most important of his gifts will be assembled in special exhibition in the autumn.

The Art Museum, as conceived by Mr. Libbey, is for the pleasure and education of Toledo families. It is open free on Sunday and Monday, 1 to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7 to 9 p.m.